CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An electronic spreadsheet having a plurality of cells, the improvement comprising:

a single method object, adapted to be instantiated in at least one of the spreadsheet cells, and adapted to provide internal storage and member functions, the member functions being adapted to access the single method object and return a single value;

a data display buffer, the data contents of which are displayed under a variably transparent spreadsheet grid; and

means for selectively displaying the data content of the single method object in the data display buffer corresponding to a selected spreadsheet cell.

2. A method for selectively displaying large data sets in an electronic spreadsheet having a plurality of cells, the method comprising:

instantiating a single method object in each of a plurality of the cells of the spreadsheet, each single method object being adapted to provide internal storage for storing a large data set;

displaying the large data set of the single method object corresponding to a selected cell of the spreadsheet; and

displaying in superimposed relationship with the large data set a variably transparent spreadsheet including the selected cell.

3. A user-interface method for selectively displaying machine vision images stored in an electronic spreadsheet having a plurality of cells, the method comprising:

instantiating a single method object in each of a plurality of the cells of the spreadsheet, each single method object being adapted to provide internal storage for storing a machine vision image;

selecting a cell from the plurality of cells;

displaying the machine vision image stored in the single method object corresponding to the selected cell; and

displaying in superimposed relationship with the machine vision image a transparent electronic spreadsheet including the selected cell.

4. The user-interface method of claim 3, wherein the transparent electronic spreadsheet is adjustably transparent.

5. The user-interface method of claim 3, wherein the selected cell is selected using a game controller.

6. The user-interface method of claim 3, wherein the selected cell is selected using one of a standard keyboard and a mouse.

7. The user-interface method of claim 3, wherein the machine vision image includes a superposition of an object image, and a graphical representation of an analysis of the object image.

8. The user-interface method of claim 7, wherein the analysis of the object image is a histogram of the object image.